

Can't get more Irish than Will

REVIEW: Millar's show worth toasting

PETER RUSLAND
Staff London Reviewer

"This is Irish tea."

That's how Conchita's senior leprechaun Owen Finnegan described a pint of Guinness during Wednesday's intermission of Will Millar's *Irish Celebration*.

Finnegan wasn't drinking alone as listeners and players alike worked up a thirst at Brentwood College's T. Gil Ranch Theatre during Millar's merry evening, punctuated with jokes, stories, visuals, dancing and old-time raves coarsing St. Patrick's Day.

Former Irish Rover Millar was in fine form before an adoring crowd of long-time fans.

Clad in a mint-green shirt and his trademark can, Millar bounced from bodhran drum and kate guitar to banjo and whistles during the past-paced evening.

He was flanked by upright bassist Steve Toner, keyboardist Sandy Jasper, guitarist Sam Tortorece, banjo balladeer Chuck McCandless, and fiddler Kathleen Keane on most tunes that started with waltzing *How Do You Come Rulin' Home*.

Between songs and jokes, dancer Philip *(Lord of the Dance)* Brady showed his fancy footwork and even performed a dancing duel with Sarah Keane.

The stage was dominated by a power-point production of photos and film footage from Ireland, ranging from barbershops and inn-

gates to factory workers and ruined castles illustrating the Emerald Isle described by Millar and his mob.

The evening's roster-of-15-plus tunes included impressive versions of *Black Velvet Road, Rocky Road To Dublin* (McCandless), *The High Road* (Jasper), *My Grandmother's Old Smoking Chair* (Millar), *Good As The Windy* (Keane), *Swan Slane* (McCandless), *Black 'N' White* (Millar), and *How Irish Are You*.

It was perhaps Toner's roasting, flautist version of *Downey Day* that drew the most applause before Millar's timeless hit *The Union Song*.

Again, Millar proved life can be one big celtic and invited all to share his Irish spirit.

St. Paddy's Day concert ratings: A+ (shown out of 10)



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Bally resident Will Millar remains the epitome of Irish music.